

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 139778

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY: EA/PRCM:LBUSHNELL:EBS

APPROVED BY: EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG

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R 171529Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139778

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRC CHARGE ON LAO NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO HONG KONG, JULY 16,
FROM VIENTIANE RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, LA

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRC CHARGE ON LAO NEGOTIATIONS

1. AT FRENCH BASTILLE DAY RECEPTION, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH LAO NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINESE CHARGE. LATTER APPEARED EXTREMELY WELL INFORMED ON ISSUES WHICH WERE HOLDING UP PROGRESS. CHARGE ASKED ME WHETHER I THOUGHT LAOS NEGOTIATIONS ARE LINKED TO DEVELOPMENTS IN CAMBODIA. I REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND THAT LAO NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NOT USE EVENTS IN CAMBODIA AS SUBTERFUGE FOR DELAYING RESOLUTION OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. CHINESE CHARGE, SPEAKING THROUGH INTERPRETER, VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED THIS POSITION, AND ADDED THAT LAOS IS A RELATIVELY SIMPLE PROBLEM COMPARED TO THE COMPLEXITIES OF CAMBODIA. THE GIST OF THE REMARKS MADE BY CHINESE CHARGE WAS IN SUPPORT OF AN EARLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN LAOS.

2. WHEN I ASKED CHARGE ABOUT RETURN OF KUO YING TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 139778

VIENTIANE, CHARGE SAID THAT HIS COLLEAGUE HAD HEART

TROUBLE AND DOES NOT EXPECT TO COME BACK UNTIL END OF
AUGUST AT EARLIEST. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION WHEN
PEKING MIGHT SEND A NEW AMBASSADOR TO VIENTIANE, HE
OPINED THAT "THIS WOULD HAPPEN QUITE RAPIDLY AFTER
COALITION GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN FORMED."

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO
LIASON OFFICE IN PEKING.
DEAN

UNQUOTE. RUSH

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NNN

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